

## County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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> Board of Supervisors GLORIA MOLINA First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY Third District

DON KNABE Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH Fifth District

To:

October 4, 2011

Mayor Michael D. Antonovich

Supervisor Gloria Molina

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Supervisor Don Knabe

From:

William T Fujioka

Chief Executive Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE ON RECENTLY ENACTED LEGISLATION

## **Short-Term Continuing Resolutions**

None of the 12 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012 appropriations bills have been enacted. On September 30, 2011, the President signed into law H.R. 2017, a Continuing Resolution (CR), which temporarily extends funding for Federal programs and activities, including the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), through October 4, 2011. Today, the House cleared, for the President's signature, H.R. 2608, another CR which temporarily funds Federal programs, including the NFIP, through November 18, 2011. H.R. 2608 also includes \$2.65 billion in disaster relief funding without any offsetting reductions. The Senate passed both H.R. 2017 and H.R. 2608 on September 30, 2011 after tabling a previous House-passed version of the CR which included \$1.6 billion in offsetting reductions to help finance disaster relief funding. H.R. 2608 reflects a compromise agreement in which the Senate agreed to scale back its request for additional disaster aid by \$1 billion in exchange for the House dropping its insistence on offsetting reductions. This agreement was reached after the Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that \$1 billion less additional disaster relief funding was needed in the CR than initially believed.

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On September 30, 2011, the President signed into law two bills of County interest:

## Child Welfare Reauthorization Legislation (H.R. 2883)

H.R. 2883, the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act, reauthorizes the Title IV-B Child Welfare Services (CWS) and Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Programs at current funding levels through FFY 2016, and also reauthorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to approve new child welfare waiver demonstration projects through FFY 2014. Without the enactment of this bill, Title IV-B CWS and PSSF funding would have expired on September 30, 2011, and HHS would not have the authority to approve any new child welfare waivers. The authority of HHS to approve new child welfare waivers expired on March 31, 2006, which was the same day on which California was granted a Title IV-E flexible funding waiver under which the County participates.

The bill imposes new application requirements for states to obtain new waivers, including a requirement that participating states implement at least two new child welfare improvement policies, including one new policy to obtain a waiver. However, as advocated by the County, these new waiver requirements do not apply to the renewal of existing waivers. H.R. 2883, therefore, will not affect the renewal of California's current Title IV-E waiver, which expires on June 30, 2013. The bill includes a provision which sunsets all Title IV-E waivers on September 30, 2019. However, a September 30, 2019 sunset date would not affect California's current Title IV-E waiver if it is renewed for another five years, and legislation can be enacted in the future to extend the authority to conduct Title IV-E waivers.

## Three-Month Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Extension (H.R. 2943)

H.R. 2943, which the President also signed into law, extends the authorization and funding for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program at its current funding level for three months through December 31, 2011.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA MR:MT:sb

c: All Department Heads Legislative Strategist